

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

## NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Commissioner  
 US Department of Commerce  
 United States Patent and Trademark  
 Office, PCT  
 2011 South Clark Place Room  
 CP2/5C24  
 Arlington, VA 22202  
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE  
 in its capacity as elected Office

<b>Date of mailing</b> (day/month/year) 10 January 2001 (10.01.01)	
<b>International application No.</b> PCT/IB00/00638	<b>Applicant's or agent's file reference</b> 61.13257.W06
<b>International filing date</b> (day/month/year) 12 May 2000 (12.05.00)	<b>Priority date</b> (day/month/year) 13 May 1999 (13.05.99)
<b>Applicant</b> O'CONNOR, J., John et al	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

12 December 2000 (12.12.00)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:2. The election ☒ was☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO  
 34, chemin des Colombettes  
 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

Authorized officer

S. Mafla

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

Translation  
10/019994

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P032212/WO/1	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP00/04154	International filing date (day/month/year) 10 May 2000 (10.05.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 26 June 1999 (26.06.99)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B60R 16/02		
Applicant DAIMLERCHRYSLER AG		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>7</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).  These annexes consist of a total of <u>7</u> sheets.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:  I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 15 December 2000 (15.12.00)	Date of completion of this report 31 August 2001 (31.08.2001)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP00/04154

## I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application:\*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:  
pages \_\_\_\_\_ 4-7 \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
pages \_\_\_\_\_ 1-3,3a-3b \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_ 15 May 2001 (15.05.2001)
- ☒ the claims:  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
pages \_\_\_\_\_ 1-5 \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_ 15 May 2001 (15.05.2001)
- ☒ the drawings:  
pages \_\_\_\_\_ 1/1 \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language \_\_\_\_\_ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, Nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_

5. ☒ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).\*\*

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

\*\* Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

**I. Basis of the report**

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of *(Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.)*

The amendments in Claim 1 are in contravention of PCT Article 34(2)(b) because they appear to go beyond the disclosure of the application as originally filed (see also International Preliminary Examination Guidelines, Section IV, Chapter VI-7.9 and VI-7.13).

- According to the original Claim 1, the units listed in the preamble of the claim are wired to a data bus, whereas according to the wording of the amended claim they are merely connected to it (in whatever way). Thus the subject matter of the claim appears to have been made more general.
- In the original claim, the operating and display unit is controlled by the processing unit; in the amended claim it is controlled by "other system components".
- The original disclosure of the characterising features is generally dubious, and is in some respects inconsistent with the description and drawings (in particular page 5 and Figure 1).
- With regard to the first characterising feature of the amended Claim 1, it is noted that although this seems to be the case in all Windows™-based computer systems, a question nevertheless arises concerning the disclosure of the feature, which should at least be explicit, particularly in view of the disjointed descriptions of Figures 1 and 2.
- With regard to the second and last feature, it is noted that page 5 refers to a central processing unit but not to a central system control by way of which the processing unit communicates with the other system components; according to the description, the central processing unit and the "other system components" communicate by way of an (additional) communication unit.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP 00/04154

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-5	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-5	YES
	Claims		NO

**2. Citations and explanations****1. Independent Claim 1**

WO-A2-99/06987 (document D1) shows and describes the following (see Figures 1 and 2, and page 3, lines 4-16; page 3, line 33 to page 4, line 2; page 6, lines 26-28; page 7, lines 16-24; page 27, lines 2-10; page 35, line 21 to page 36, line 6; page 41, lines 11-35; page 44, lines 22-29; and Claims 21-24, 54 and 67):

- a vehicle communication system with a data bus ("common bus (113)") and components (117, 121, 125 ... 161) wired (or linked/connected) thereto, which include at least one operating and display unit ("master control interface (117)", shown in detail in Figure 2) and a processing unit that controls it ("subsystem interface (111)", "processor (193)", "memory (107)"), wherein a graphical user interface based on the HTML(XML) page format is implemented in the at least one operating and display unit (117) and/or the processing unit (103, 107, 111) that controls it.

**Note:**

According to page 27, lines 3-5, the vehicle communication system according to D1 runs on the Microsoft Windows™ operating system. As at the priority date of D1, the state of the art system was Windows™ 98, whose built-in browser Internet Explorer™ supports both HTML and XML as standard, as well as ActiveX and MMI applications.

However, D1 also covers the features defined in the characterising part of the amended claim in its present version, since in D1 the HTML/XML-based graphical user interface is used (at least in the "Help" function") for communication between the at least one operating and display unit and the processing unit. (Note: As indicated in the description (page 36, line 4), the "Help" function in HTML format requires interactive communication and is not merely confined to the actual data format itself.)

Communication between the at least one operating and display unit and the processing unit relies on a central system control under Windows™, which is obviously the only way the processing unit can communicate with the other system component(s).

The present application thus fails to meet the requirement of PCT Article 33(2) because its subject matter is not novel over the prior art as defined in the PCT Regulations (PCT Rule 64.1 - 64.3).

2. Dependent Claims 2-5

Dependent Claims 2-5 relate to other embodiments of the invention according to Claim 1 and likewise fail to meet the PCT requirements because a dependent claim can only meet the said requirements if the claim on which it is dependent also meets the requirements. Moreover, the features of the dependent claims appear to be known *per se* from the prior art documents cited below, and thus are not essential features susceptible of establishing novelty or inventive step in any way.

Claims 2-5: Document D1 - see the cited passages and the note relating to Claim 1; also WO-A1-98/51991 (document D4) - see in particular the abstract and both drawings.

3. Industrial applicability

The subject matter of Claims 1-5 appears to meet the requirement of PCT Article 33(4) because it seems that it can be manufactured and used at least in the field of automotive engineering.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/EP 00/04154

**VII. Certain defects in the international application**

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

The independent claim fails to meet the requirement of PCT Rule 6.3(b) because it is not presented in the two-part form with a preamble containing the features which, in combination with each other, form part of the closest prior art (see point 2 in Box V above).

# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/EP 00/04154

## VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Claim 1 fails to meet the requirements of PCT Article 6 because it is not clear.

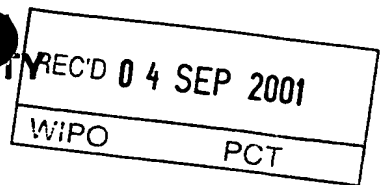
- In the fourth line it is not clear which units/components are controlled by the processing unit (see also Box I above).
- In the seventh line the "and/or" conjunction is incorrect because it also covers the possibility of a graphical user interface solely for the processing unit, which makes no sense.
- With regard to the second characterising feature, it is noted that the inadequate disclosure (see Box I above) creates an inconsistency between the claim and the description, as well as a problem of clarity with respect to the implementation of the system control (i.e. in which part or parts the system control is implemented).

Furthermore, the connection between Figures 1 and 2 is not at all clear; that is, it is not clear which of the modules shown in Figure 2 runs in which of the parts shown in Figure 1. Consequently the description itself also lacks clarity.

The description (still) contains abbreviations which, although they may be in frequent use in the field of pure information technology or electronic data processing, are not necessarily generally known in the field of automotive engineering. Moreover, not all these abbreviations are fully explained.

The application thus fails to meet the requirements of PCT Article 6, particularly in respect of the stipulations concerning the clarity of the claims and support for the claims in the description.





## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT



(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 61.13257.W06	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/IB00/00638	International filing date (day/month/year) 12/05/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 13/05/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A61F2/42		
Applicant ISTITUTI ORTOPEDICI RIZZOLI et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
- These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

## 3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 12/12/2000	Date of completion of this report 31.08.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Daintith, N Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8894 

# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/IB00/00638

## I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

**Description, pages:**

1-23 as originally filed

**Claims, No.:**

1-16 as originally filed

**Drawings, sheets:**

1/7-7/7 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/IB00/00638

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability**

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application.

☒ claims Nos. 10-16.

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☒ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. 10-16.

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Yes: Claims 3

# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/IB00/00638

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	No:	Claims	1,2,4-9
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	3
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-9
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations  
**see separate sheet**

## VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:  
**see separate sheet**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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International application No. PCT/IB00/00638

**POINT V**

1. The subject-matter of independent claims 1, 7 and 9 is so broadly claimed that it reads on to the prior art, see for example US-A-4309778 (D1) column 20, lines 32 to 62 and figs 49 to 52 and US-A-4470158, figs 1 to 33. The embodiments of these documents relating to knees are also covered by the subject-matter of claims 1 and 7. The requirement of novelty of Article 33 (2) PCT is not met.
2. The subject-matter of dependent claims 4-6 and 8 is likewise known from D1 and hence not novel with respect to D1 and D2.
3. The subject-matter of claim 3 does not appear to be known from nor rendered obvious by the cited prior art as none of the prior art shows the combination of bearing surface shapes of this claim. Hence claim 3 appears to fulfil the requirements of Article 3 (2) and (3) PCT.

**POINT VIII**

4. Claims 1 and 7 are not supported by the description as the description concerns only ankle joints and these claims are not restricted to ankle joints. The requirements of Article 6 PCT are not met.
5. Claim 2 is not clear as it define the subject-matter of a prosthesis in terms of the result to be achieved and not in terms of technical features of the invention. The requirements of Article 6 PCT are not met.

# PCT

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>61. I3257. W06</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. <b>PCT/ IB 00/ 00638</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>12/05/2000</b>	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) <b>13/05/1999</b>
Applicant <b>ISTITUTI ORTOPEDICI RIZZOLI et al.</b>		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

### 1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.



the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :



contained in the international application in written form.



filed together with the international application in computer readable form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.



the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.



the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☒ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.



as suggested by the applicant.



because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.



because this figure better characterizes the invention.

1



None of the figures.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/IB 00/00638

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 10-16  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
The subject-matter of claims 10 to 16 relates to medical methods and hence in accordance with Rule 39 (iv) PCT no examination will be carried out on these claims
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

### Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/IB 00/00638

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61F2/42

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 309 778 A (BUECHEL FREDERICK F ET AL) 12 January 1982 (1982-01-12) column 20, line 32-62; figures 48-52 ---	1-9
X	US 4 470 158 A (BUECHEL FREDERICK F ET AL) 11 September 1984 (1984-09-11) figures 1-33 ---	1-9
X	FR 2 730 157 A (BOUVET JEAN CLAUDE) 9 August 1996 (1996-08-09) page 2, line 23 -page 3, line 27 -----	1-9



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents :

\*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

\*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

\*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

\*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

\*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

\*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

\*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

\*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

\*&amp;\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

18 September 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

2 6. 09. 00

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Daintith, N



## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/IB 00/00638

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4309778 A	12-01-1982	AT 7456 T	15-06-1984
		CA 1176004 A	16-10-1984
		CA 1169201 A	19-06-1984
		DE 3067826 D	20-06-1984
		EP 0021421 A	07-01-1981
		JP 1210110 C	29-05-1984
		JP 56083343 A	07-07-1981
		JP 58048180 B	27-10-1983
		US 4340978 A	27-07-1982
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US 4470158 A	11-09-1984	DE 2965891 D	25-08-1983
		EP 0018364 A	12-11-1980
		JP 5053501 B	10-08-1993
		JP 55500222 T	17-04-1980
		WO 7900739 A	04-10-1979
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FR 2730157 A	09-08-1996	NONE	
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